

Maryland Historical Trust

Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Survey No. B-4746

1. Name

Historic 105- 121 South Regester Street
and / common

2. Location

street & number 105 - 121 South Regester Street
city, town Baltimore
state & zip code Maryland 21231 county

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	X occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> museum
X building(s)	X private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational	X private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	X yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
	<input type="checkbox"/> not applicable	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name
street & number
city, town state & zip code telephone

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Baltimore City Land Records liber
street & number Clarence Mitchell Courthouse folio
city, town Baltimore State Maryland

6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title
date federal state county local
depository for survey records
city, town state & zip code

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7. Description

Condition

☐ excellent
☒ good
☐ fair

☐ deteriorated
☐ ruins
☐ unexposed

Check One

☐ unaltered
☒ altered

Check One

☒ original site
☐ moved:
date of move: _____

Prepare both a summary paragraph and a general description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

The east side of the 100 block of S. Regester St. is comprised of a long row of two-story-and-attic houses, one of which has been enlarged to a full three story house with a Renaissance-Revival style cornice. One house, 105, was originally built as a three story, early Italianate-style house.

105 S. Regester St. is a three story early Italianate-style house. With its north side wooden addition it is 19'6" wide and occupies a lot only 30' deep. The house is constructed in running bond that was always painted. The shed roof is capped by a wooden cornice consisting of a deeply projecting crown molding supported by a row of block modillions set against a shallow, plain frieze area. Door and window openings have segmentally arched brick lintels and wood sills. None of the original 2/2 sash survives and the window openings are filled with 1/1 replacement sash. The doorway has a single-light transom and a modern replacement door. The house sits on a high basement, lit by a double-hung sash. The entrance is reached by six metal steps, set parallel to the facade.

107 – 121 S. Regester St. is a group of eight, two-bay-wide, two-story-and-attic brick houses typical of a popular type of Baltimore rowhouse built in the late 1840s and 1850s to serve the city's growing working class population. The lower-pitched gable roof allowed for a more spacious upper story, which now could be lit by small rectangular windows at both the front and rear of the house, instead of the earlier dormer windows. Despite its practical nature, this new feature had its roots in a stylistic change in Baltimore's fashionable housing, the small "attic" windows being an important part of the facade design of much larger town mansions being built in the new Greek Revival style.

The houses are two-and-a-half stories in height, 14' wide, and occupy lots 70' deep. Each house has a one-story brick rear kitchen addition somewhat narrower than the house. Because early house lots in Baltimore were laid out back to back, without rear service alleys, the only street entrance to the backyard is through the flat-linteled sallyport located in the center of each pair. The houses are constructed in running bond, and were always painted, but some have been covered with formstone. The low-pitched gable roof has a simple corbelled brick cornice. The roofs are covered with modern asphalt shingles overtop the original cedar shakes. A double, hooded chimney located at the peak of the gable roof, serves both the front and rear rooms. Each house also has a chimney at the rear of the kitchen addition.

Continuation sheet

All of the first and second floor door and window openings have segmentally arched brick lintels. The narrow attic windows have no lintels, except for 121, which has third floor segmentally arched brick lintels. All of the sills are wood. None of the original 6/6 or 4/4 sash survives and the window openings are filled with 1/1 replacement sash. All of the original doors have been replaced with a variety of replacement door types set beneath single light transoms, many of which have been covered with aluminum siding or boarded over. The houses sit on low basements, lit by a single-light sash. The entrances are reached by two or three concrete, brick, or wooden steps.

The houses are two rooms deep, with the front room being entered directly from the front door. The front and back rooms of the first floor are separated by a wide opening, with the tightly winding, narrow stairs set in the rear room, in the space between the partition wall and the fireplace. There are two bedrooms on the second floor of the main part of the house, each with a fireplace. The third floor attic rooms have low sloping ceilings, with a maximum ceiling height of about seven feet at the peak of the gable sloping down to about four feet at the front and rear of the house. The one-story rear addition served as the kitchen, with its own cooking fireplace.

8. Significance

Period	Area of significance	check one & justify			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> social/	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theatre	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation	
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other: specify	

Specific dates c. 1845 - 1855

Builder/Architect

Prepare both a summary paragraph of significance and a general statement of history and support.

This row of houses is significant as being representative of a large group of such houses built in the 1840s and 1850s to accommodate the growing labor force centered around the Baltimore waterfront and the city's fledgling industrial areas, such as Canton and southwest Baltimore. Although showing stylistic influences from Greek Revival style buildings constructed in Baltimore in the 1830s and 1840s (in the proportions of the attic windows, the chaste exterior details, and the double parlor floor plan), the outstanding feature of these houses is their extreme simplicity of design and detailing. They are practical adaptations of a current mode of building, designed to meet the need for efficient, low-cost housing for a growing working class community. The floor plan is essentially the same as that of the earlier Federal-style two-and-a-half story houses, but the opening between the two rooms is wider, reflecting popular Greek Revival tastes. The increase in height of the third story (from a dormer story to an attic story) allowed the third story to be divided into two separate rooms, in place of the one open room of the dormer story, thus providing welcome additional private living space to large families or those who had to take in boarders. The houses do not differ markedly from similar two-story-and-attic houses built on nearby main streets—they are simply somewhat narrower versions priced to serve less affluent residents of the old walking city.

These particular houses were built at a time when Fells Point was already an important ship building center for the growing town of Baltimore and was beginning to have a few small factories. Early occupants included people involved in the maritime trades, small-scale craftsmen, and laborers who made their homes in the smaller-scale and more affordable housing located on the small "alley" streets of Fells Point. Until about 1850 Regester Street was known as Argyle Alley and its occupants were racially mixed.

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9. Major Bibliographic References

Mary Ellen Hayward and Charles Belfoure, *The Baltimore Rowhouse*
(New York: Princeton Architectural Press, 1999)

10. Geographic Data

Acreage of nominated property

Quadrangle name

Verbal boundary description and justification

11. Form Prepared by

name / title Dr. Mary Ellen Hayward

Organization The Alley House Project

street & number 1306 Carrollton Ave.

city, town Baltimore

date June 2000

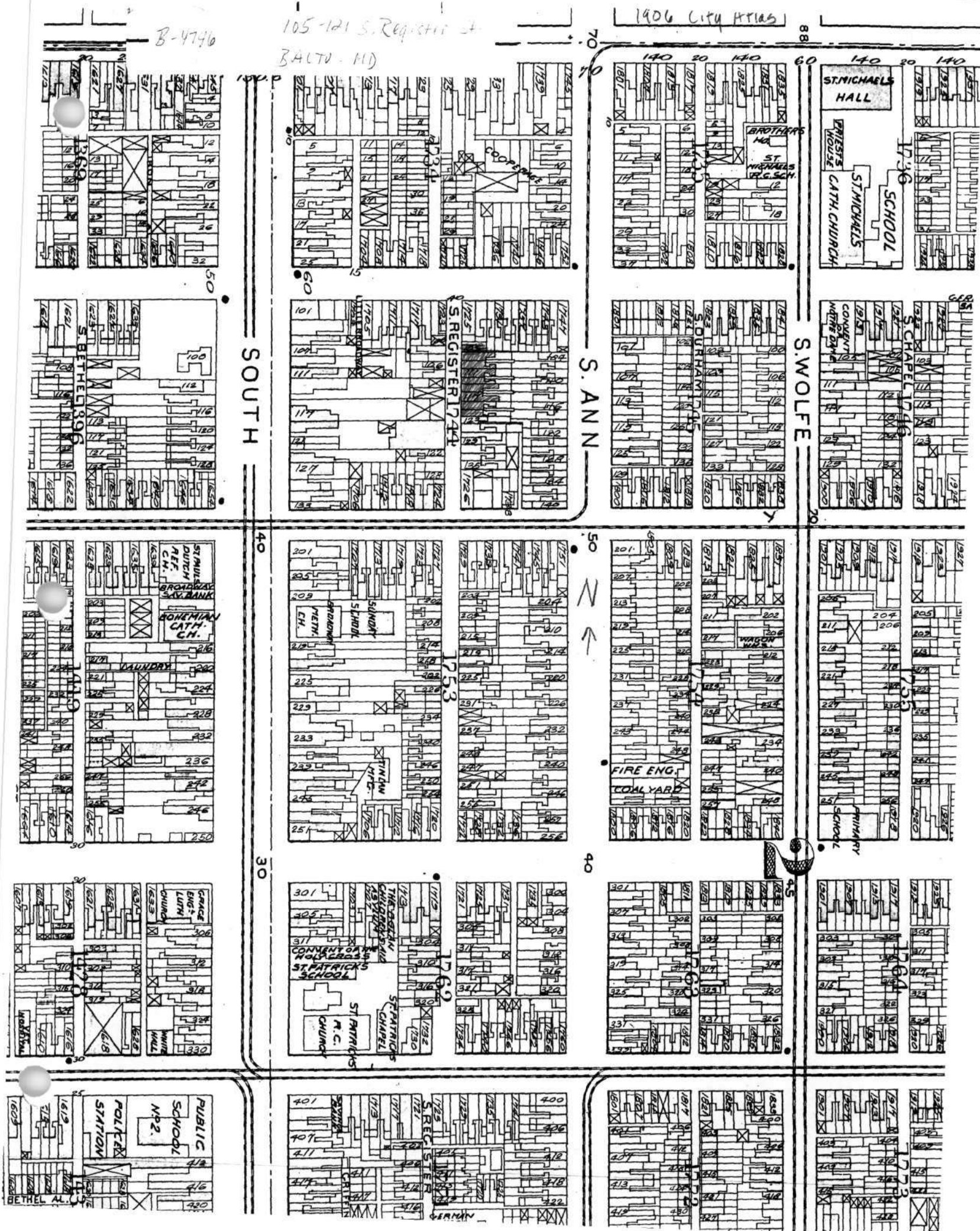
telephone

state & zip code Maryland 21204

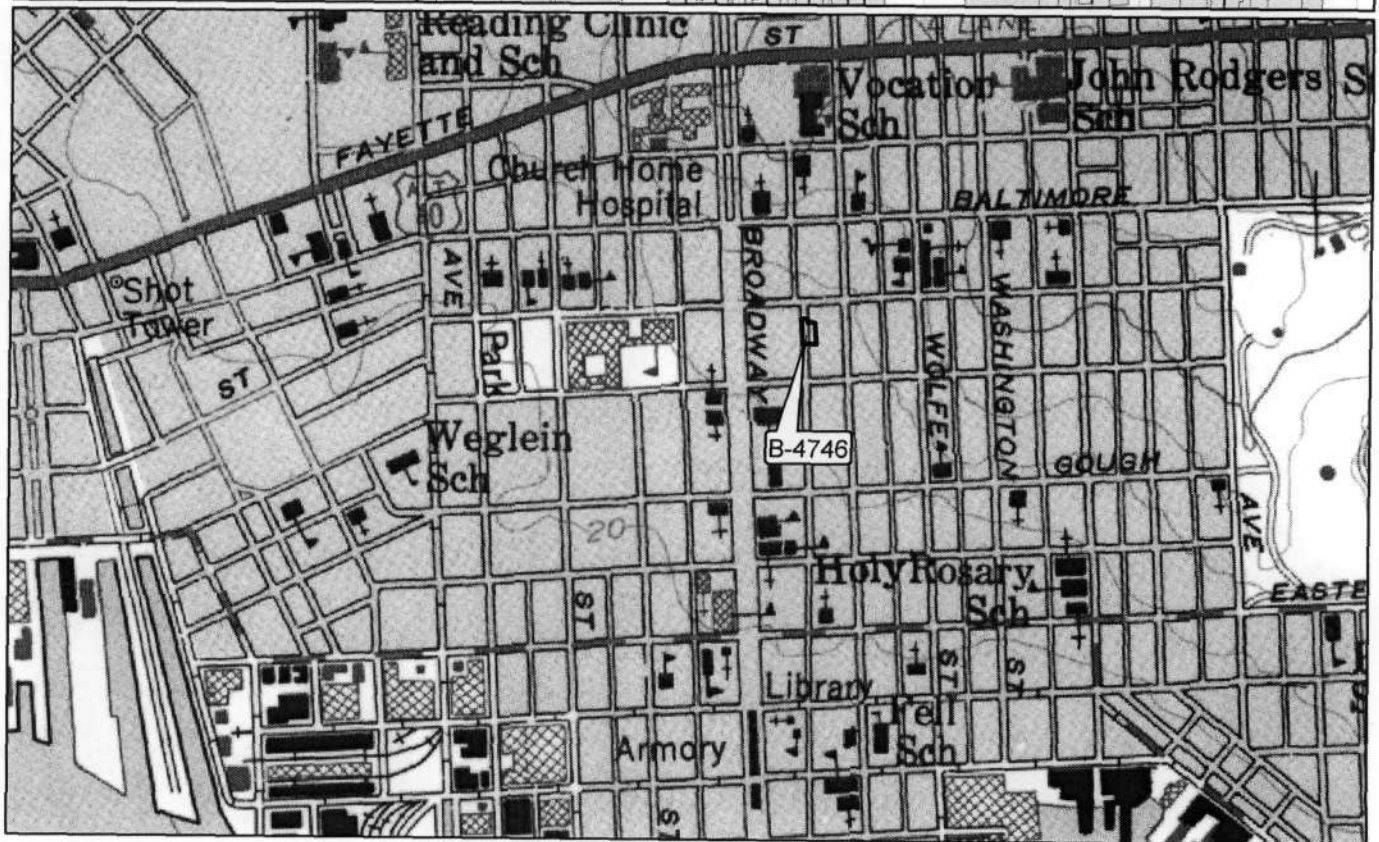
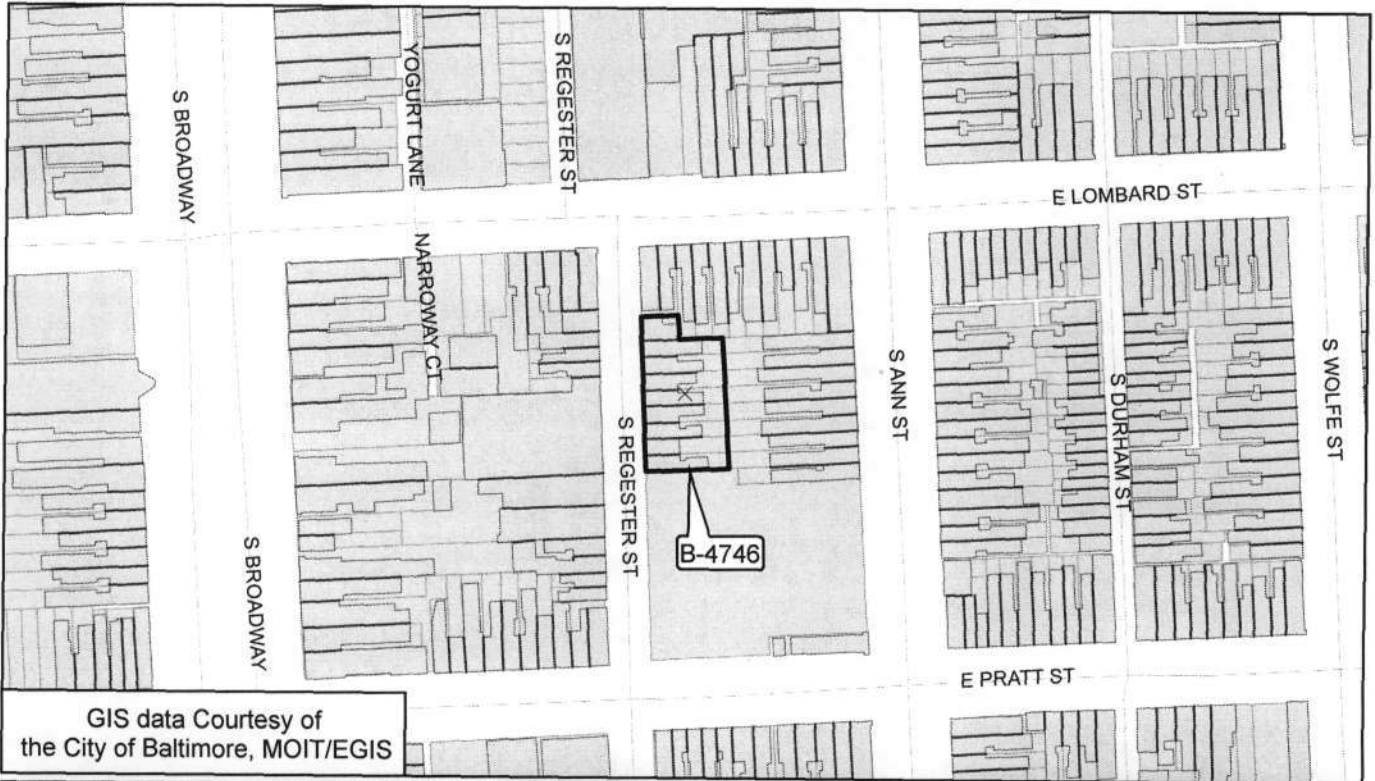
The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Maryland, Article 41, section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of rights.

Return to:
DHCP/DHCD
Maryland Historical Trust
100 Community Place
Crownsville MD 21032-2023



B-4746
105-121 S. Regester Street
Block 1744, Lots 072-080
Baltimore City
Baltimore East Quad.





105 S. Register

B-4746

105-121 S Register St.

SAPO, MD

On Selfport

11/97

MB SAPO

11/9

11/24/02 0211 N N 11 02



107 S. Register

B-V786

165-121 S. Register St

BALTO, MD

C. Belfrage MD

11/47

2/4

ENCLOSURE 021 11/47 2



109-121 S. Register

E-4746
105-121 S. Register St.
BALTO. MD
C. Belmore
11/97
3/4

18D

[15]402 0211 H H W 22



117 S. Regester

B-4746

117 S. Regester St

BALD. MO

C. Belfaire

11/97

4/4

E143002 0211 AM N 22